

The Californian Species of *Thelypteris*

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The ferns that have been called *Dryopteris* in most treatments of ferns in California, as for example those by Maxon, in Abrams, Illustrated Flora of the Pacific States, and by Munz, in his A Manual of Southern California Botany, or, erroneously, *Aspidium*, as by Jepson, in his Manual of the California Flora, have been shown by various authors to belong to two phyletic lines that are now considered to be rather unrelated; extremists even place them in two families—the Aspidiaceae and the Thelypteridaceae. There do not seem sufficient grounds for regarding these species as belonging to different families or perhaps even subfamilies, but it is evident that two distinct groups have been wrongly united under the name *Dryopteris*. True *Dryopteris* is represented in California by the species *D. arguta*, *D. Filix-mas*, and *D. austriaca*.¹ The other species—those called by Maxon *D. Feei*, *D. oreopteris*, and *D. oregana* belong to the genus *Thelypteris*.²

In an article that I published some time ago in the American Fern Journal³ I pointed out some of the distinguishing characters. I reproduce below the key that was given at that time:

¹ Recent correspondence with Dr. Hans Peter Fuchs, who has given the matter intensive study, indicates that the name *austriaca* may not be properly applicable, in which case the correct name remains to be determined; very likely the well-known name *D. dilatata* will stand.

² It should be especially noted that this genus is wrongly called *Lastrea* by Copeland in his Genera Filicum. A proposal to conserve the name *Lastrea* in the sense of Copeland was made at the International Botanical Congress in Stockholm; it was studied by the Nomenclature Committee and voted down. The name *Thelypteris* therefore remains correct. Dr. Copeland's reasons for rejecting *Thelypteris* were based on a lack of understanding of the rules of nomenclature.

³ 40: 217. 1950.